


Six four-year courses, of high school grade, and two college courses, leading to the degrees of Ph. B. and B. S. respectively, were offered at this time.

The Latter-day Saints University is organized under the laws of the State of Utah, by articles of incorporation that define its powers, prescribe its duties, and indicate specifically its sphere of operations. Article IV declares that "the nature and objects of this association shall be to found a university, with colleges, academies, schools, institutes, museums, galleries of art, libraries, laboratories, gymnasiums, and all proper accessories, where instruction of the highest grade possible to its resources shall be given to both sexes in science, literature, art, mechanical pursuits, and in the principles of the Gospel as taught by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The chief aim and object of the institution shall be to make of its students and graduates worthy citizens and true followers of Jesus Christ, by fitting them for some useful pursuit, by strengthening in their minds a pure attachment to the Constitution of the United States and to our republican institutions, by teaching them the lessons of purity, morality and upright conduct, and by giving them, as far as possible, an understanding of the plan of salvation revealed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Nothing that is contrary to the laws of the land shall ever be taught in said institution."

BENJAMIN CLUFF, JR.

 HIS gentleman is the president of the Brigham Young Academy. He was born at Provo, February 7, 1858, but at four years of age moved with his parents to Logan, where he remained until he was seven, when his mother was called with her children to join her husband, who was then on a mission in the Sandwich Islands. In a company presided over by Elder George Nebeker, the family proceeded by team to California, where they took ship to Honolulu. At Laie the boy remained with his parents for five years. There was little chance for schooling there, but the environments—the broad ocean, with its never ceasing waves, dashing mountain high at times against the rocky shore; the mountains volcanic and precipitous, covered with beautiful tropical verdure, furnished excellent opportunities for one kind of education, tending to give bent to his mind and exercising a great influence over his after life. He learned the native language, and spoke it as easily as his own tongue. He helped to pick the first cotton grown on the Laie plantation, and assisted in building the first sugar mill and manufacturing the first sugar there.

At Logan, after his return in 1870, Benjamin helped his father at carpenter work during the summer, and attended school in winter; but he did not like it, and cared little or nothing for education until about fifteen, when an inspiration seized him and he resolved to be more studious. Early in 1875 he left Logan for Coalville, where he was employed by his uncle, William W. Cluff, President of Summit Stake, and for two years was in the post office and tithing office at that place. He was not charmed with his work, but he loved the Coalville city library, and was the librarian for over a year. He became thoroughly imbued with the desire for an education, and having heard of the establishment of the Brigham Young Academy at Provo, he determined to attend it. It was in May, 1877, that he started for his native town, and not having money to spare for a railroad ticket, set out on foot. In that manner, and with the aid of passing teams, he soon covered the intervening distance of sixty-five miles.

The next morning after his arrival in Provo, "Bennie," chaperoned by his uncle, Harvey H. Cluff, one of the directors of the Academy, entered that institution, and met for the first time the man who was to have so much influence over his future life—Dr. Karl G. Maeser. School lacked but three weeks of closing for the year, but during that short period the youth became so interested in his studies that he determined to put forth every effort to continue. During the summer vacation, he hauled coal and produce between Coalville and Provo, and earned sufficient means to start in school at the opening of the next year; though an event happened at that time that nearly changed the course of his life. The day before school opened he was sent for by his father, who had purchased a farm on Center Creek, in Wasatch County, and wanted his son to help

him cultivate it. He offered him a third interest in the farm if he would assist him to develop it. The boy told his father that he would stay if he insisted, but he would much prefer going to school. "And I would like to have you go, but I cannot afford to send you and I need your labor here." The son replied, "I know you need my labor, and I am in duty bound to stay with you, but if you will release me, as if I were of age, I will never ask you for assistance; I will work my own way through school." This proposition was accepted, and though it was late at night, the boy saddled up and rode to Provo, arriving next morning in time for the opening of school.

To help pay his expenses he engaged as a sub-janitor in the Academy, and was soon made head janitor over the whole building. At the organization of the normal class he was chosen one of its members, and soon after was installed as teacher of the primary department. His second vacation was spent in a similar manner to the first. At the opening of the second year everything was bright before him, when his school work was suddenly closed by a call in October, 1878, to take a mission to the Sandwich Islands. It was a severe trial, but he determined to honor the call, and forthwith announced to the Church authorities his readiness to respond. It was almost like going home, owing to his former residence in and around Laie.

He returned to Utah in the spring of 1882, and at the fall opening of the B. Y. Academy was engaged as instructor in mathematics. Among his fellow teachers were James E. Talmage, Joseph M. Tanner and Joseph B. Keeler, who had been his fellow students. In August, 1884, he married the eldest daughter of David John, one of the presidency of Utah Stake. In the fall of the same year he was appointed stake superintendent of the Y. M. M. I. A. Two years later he obtained leave of absence from the Academy and matriculated in the University of Michigan. While there he debated before the Students' Association on the affirmative of the question, "Resolved that Utah is ready for Statehood." He also answered Mrs. Angie Newman, of Industrial Home notoriety, in her attacks upon Utah and the Mormons. Graduating in 1890 with the degree of Bachelor of Science, after returning home he was engaged in his alma mater as instructor in the theory and practice of teaching. He was soon made assistant principal, and at the completion of the new Academy building in January, 1892, was placed as principal, and subsequently became president of the institution.

The Brigham Young Academy was founded October 16, 1875; at least that was the date upon which President Young signed the deed of trust. A preliminary session of the school was held soon after, with Warren N. Dusenberry as principal. He was succeeded by Dr. Karl G. Maeser, who opened the first academic year, August 21, 1876. During the first term there was an enrollment of twenty-nine pupils, among whom were Joseph B. Keeler, George H. Brimhall, Joseph M. Tanner, James E. Talmage and others who have since become prominent in educational matters. The building in which the school was originally held was designed for a mercantile business on its first floor, and for a theatre and dance hall on the second floor. A basement story, or cellar, always damp and musty, rendered the whole place unhealthy, and Dr. Maeser often spoke of it as "my coffin." The school grew rapidly. In the second academic year a normal department was added, followed soon by an academic department, then by a music department, a scientific department, etc. At the close of the seventh year more room was needed, and in the fall of 1883, mainly through the liberality of President A. O. Smoot, commodious additions were built; but before these were used and just prior to the opening of the second semester of 1883-4, on the night of the 4th of January the entire building was consumed by fire.

It looked as if the Academy itself would have to cease; but such was not the case. Temporary quarters were provided in the basement of the Latter-day Saints' meeting house, in a bank building just erected, and in a new building owned by S. S. Jones. The next year the upper story of the Z. C. M. I. large warehouse near the railroad station, was rented and fitted up for school purposes. At the same time a block in the upper part of town was purchased and the foundation of a large building laid. In the warehouse, however, the school remained for over seven years. But it had reached its growth, and when Professor Cluff returned from Ann Arbor in 1890, a movement was already on foot to finish the new building upon the foundation previously laid. He and other members of the faculty, with the Board, took up the matter with vigor, so that by the opening of the second semester in 1892 the second and third stories had been completed and the school moved into its new quarters. To finish the building President Smoot and other members of the Board mortgaged their private property. Expansion was now possible. Regular courses of four years were laid out, a primary school was organized as a regular eight grade common school, and a kindergarten department instituted; the commercial department developed into a commercial college;